

Serial No. 10/733,960
Amdt. dated June 28, 2006
Reply to Office action of March 28, 2006

Remarks

Claim 1.

Applicants sincerely appreciate the examiners' indication that the proposed amendments to claim 1 (attached to the May 11, 2006 Interview Summary) overcome the reference used, Bevely et al. 6,434,462. Responsive to the outstanding Office action and pursuant to the discussion at the interview, the above application has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim what applicants regard as their invention.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the first locating device including a DGPS receiver for providing GPS positions for the motive component (e.g., tractor) and to include a second locating device for the working component (e.g., implement), which locates the working component in relation to the motive component. Moreover, claim 1 has been amended to state that the positioning device is operably and drivingly connected to the working component.

Bevely et al. are distinguishable because the articulated connection shown therein is not powered. For example, at col. 2, lines 45-46, Bevely discloses a tongue 18 extending from the towed implement 16 and pivotally coupled to a drawbar 14 (of the tractor 10) by a tow pin 19. Such an arrangement is very common in tractor/implement equipment combinations. An implement coupled by such a passive connection merely follows the tractor without the independent, active articulation presently claimed by applicants. The claimed active articulation via the positioning device provides significant advantages for improving accurate tracking by the implement, including compensation for tractor steering deviations and guide track deviations.

Bevely et al. do not disclose, suggest or provide any motivation for combining with a positioning device driven by the output of an implement locating device based on relative positioning as determined by a tractor locating device. Therefore, based on the discussion at the interview, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references of record and is allowable.

Other Claims.

Claim 13 has been amended pursuant to the examiner's suggestion to overcome the informalities objection relating to a lack of antecedent basis for the turning radii compensation.

Applicants sincerely appreciate the examiners' indication that claim 18 appears to distinguish itself over the references cited.

Independent method claim 19 has been amended to include method steps corresponding to the features added to claim 1 by this amendment. Claim 19 is therefore allowable for the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

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All of the claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if prosecution of this application can be expedited thereby.

Substance of the Interview

- 1) No exhibits were shown or demonstrations conducted.
- 2) Claim 1 was discussed and as currently amended is identical to the draft claim attached to the Interview Summary.
- 3) Bevly et al. 6,434,462 was discussed.
- 4) The principal proposed amendments are shown in the draft claim attached to the Interview Summary.
- 5) Applicants' principal argument was that the Bevly reference does not disclose, teach or make obvious the features of the invention as claimed, particularly with respect to the active, articulated connection controlled by the locating devices and controller based on relative positioning information for the motive and towed components.

I hereby certify that this paper is being filed by
facsimile transmission (571-273-8300) with the
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 28,
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Respectfully Submitted,

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